



MARCH 1978

OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS



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On the cover: Photo by Boston
Globe photographer Ulrike
Welsch was winner of the
Animal Rescue League of
Boston plaque for first prize in
the animal class in the 1977
Boston Press Photographers
Association Competition.



ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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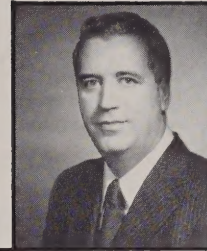
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from the editor's desk



Let's Hear From You

The editorial staff of Our Fourfooted Friends is extremely anxious to see that our magazine is presenting articles and information that are of the greatest interest to our readers, members and other friends. In order that we may determine your interests, you will find a questionnaire in the center fold of this issue, which I earnestly hope you will take a few minutes to complete and return to us. It will also help us to get to know you better, and this is extremely important to our Society because it is only through the generous support of our members and friends that we can hope to continue our many services for animals.

I would especially appreciate your comments about the format changes that appear in this issue. You will note that we have used more color, which has been made possible by a new arrangement with our printer. The use of different printing techniques has enabled us to hold down the cost of this change, and as our membership grows, which we are actively working towards, the cost will actually be reduced on a per copy basis. In view of these facts, the most important thing you can do to help the League stem the tide of ever-rising costs is to be a personal ambassador of good will for us with your friends, encouraging them to become members and supporters of the League. We plan to continue a vigorous membership drive this year and your aid in this effort can be of immense help. Just imagine the increased support we can realize if each of you recruited two or more new members this year.

As the League's President, I can assure you that this effort is vitally needed to enable us to continue, and hopefully expand, our direct services to all animals. If you have any thoughts, ideas or questions that are not covered in our survey, or ones that you would like to communicate to me directly, I would welcome a letter from you to my personal attention or, better yet, stop in at our Boston office for a visit. I would sincerely welcome the chance to meet and talk with you in person.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arthur G. Slade".

Arthur G. Slade

Pets With Professions

Meet Benji - Boston's Finest



Off-duty, Benji is the perfect playmate for Lydon children, Thomas (2) and Sandra (5) with their father, Officer Tom Lydon.

Anyone who saw Benji romping with the two young Lydon children at their Holbrook home - or who was offered his paw in enthusiastic but disciplined greeting - would hardly suspect this affectionate and intelligent pet of leading a double life. In fact, the four year old German Shepherd probably has had more drama and adventure in his life than his Hollywood namesake.

A member of the Boston Police Department K-9 Unit for three and a half years, Benji has searched buildings, tracked lost children, thwarted attempted burglaries and heroically defended the life of his handler on more than one occasion.

"You might say we've had an active career together," says Officer Thomas Lydon who joined the K-9 Unit at the same time as Benji. The two have been partners ever since. A former detective with the Tactical Police Force, he has always liked animals and "when the opportunity opened in the K-9 Unit, which is also part of the TPF, I applied immediately," he recalls. Benji was donated to the Police Department by an older woman who could no longer cope with the rapidly growing, active young puppy. "He was one of the youngest dogs ever accepted for training," Officer Lydon notes. Large for his age and very mature, Benji passed for nine months old, but it was later discovered that he was only six months of age when he joined the force.

All Boston K-9 dogs have been donated by private citizens. This not only allows the donors to feel a sense of participation in the police program, but it also means that the dogs, as former pets, are more adaptable to the home life they share with their handlers during off-duty hours.

Benji's career, like that of many professionals, began with an examination. All K-9 candidates must pass a physical examination and an aptitude

test before being accepted on the force. "Willingness to learn is one of the main things we look for in a dog," Officer Lydon explains. Other highly desirable traits are obedience, agility, physical fitness and a good temperament.

Benji passed entrance exams easily and soon was enrolled in the intensive 14-week training program at the K-9 Training Area on the Brandegee Estate in Jamaica Plain. There, police dogs from surrounding cities and towns in addition to Boston, plus many members of the State Police K-9 Unit, learn their professional skills under the direction of Boston Police Officer Kenneth Aicardi, head trainer and regional president of the U.S. Police K-9 Association.

From his first day of training, Benji has lived at home with the Lydon family, which in addition to Sandra (5) and Thomas (2½) also includes three other canine members - Whisky and Rowdy, both small house dogs, and a female shepherd named Fluffy who shares a spacious outdoor run and quarters with Benji. To the children Benji is simply a well-loved pet who has grown up with them. Both Shepherds are indoors frequently for noisy play periods with the kids, and in winter they team up in harness to pull the kids for a ride on their sled.

The K-9 training program starts with basic obedience lessons - heeling, sitting, turning and other standard lessons, first on and then off leash. Next is the agility phase, the first point of departure from conventional dog training programs. They begin by jumping over small obstacles, then move on to broad jumping, starting with 4-5 feet jumps. The trickiest part of this phase is that the handler, in this case Officer Lydon, performs these feats right along with his dog and must be "almost, but not quite, as agile."

The dogs gradually work up to advanced obstacles, leaving their human fellow officers behind as they learn to jump six foot walls and chain link fences, walk on fire escapes, climb steel and wooden ladders (both up and down), go through dark tunnels without fear, and even walk on catwalks with confidence.

All of Boston's K-9 dogs are males, but females have been used in other cities and are often easier to train, according to Officer Lydon, who is former regional vice president of the U.S. K-9 Association. Size, strength and temperament are more important than sex. Depending on shoulder height, the dogs average between 85 and 95 pounds. "A dog weighing over 100 pounds is usually not agile enough," he notes.

Affection and approval, with sharp verbal corrections, make up the reward-correction system found most effective in the training program which is continually refined and updated to incorporate the best methods of noted dog trainers around the world. "There's never any need to be abusive to a dog," Lydon emphasizes. Affection is far more likely to inspire the outstanding loyalty demonstrated by K-9 dogs whose first duty, in fact, is to sacrifice their own lives if needed to save the life of their handler or fellow officer.

In addition to indoor training, the dogs are taken to various locations for field work, including Deer Island, area forests and even buildings that are made available for practicing both daytime and night building search techniques. During search work training, the dogs learn to track scents, both human scent and articles. "A lost child, for example, can be tracked from the scent of clothing."

Attack work is the last phase of training and the one that often leads to the popular misconception that police dogs are vicious. "These dogs are definitely not vicious," the veteran handler stresses. "On the contrary, they are sensitive, well trained, highly motivated animals that react correctly to their training and situation." In a sense, the police dog is the officers' most humane weapon in law enforcement. A bullet, for instance, once fired can't be recalled. A dog sent after a fleeing felon, however, is always completely controlled, can be recalled and will attack only on command (either verbal or hand signal) unless he

himself or his handler is attacked.

Benji and Officer Lydon currently work what is known as a split shift, doing six hours stints that alternate daily between 6:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., or 12:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. The K-9 Unit now has nine dogs, six of which work nights. They travel in cruisers that are station wagons specially equipped with cages in the rear, and two access doors for the dog, one at the back for entry and another right behind the driver's seat.

Benji's daily work routine brings him into many perilous situations, one of which is the building search where the dog is sent in first to explore an unknown and potentially dangerous situation. Following his well trained nose, he has also acted as a sleuth on evidence searches, turning up items like masks and weapons left behind by bank robbers, tracked armed robbers and escapees from correctional institutions, and helped search for lost children both in Boston and on call in surrounding towns.

In his short career, Benji has already been honored with several citations, trophies and ribbons, both for outstanding service and for performance with his handler in national and regional K-9 competitions. One of the top dogs in the Northeast region, he is now ranked number twelve in the nation in U.S. K-9 Association competitions.

One of Benji's citations, in particular, is for an act of bravery unlikely to be forgotten by the Lydon family. "We were patrolling Beacon Hill when a call came in at 4:30 a.m. on a breaking and entry in progress on Mt. Vernon street," Lydon relates. "I went down an alleyway where I spotted the suspect, but before I jumped out of the cruiser I had left the connecting cage door open and the window rolled down so Benji could keep an eye on what was happening. As I approached, the suspect came at me with a crowbar but in seconds Benji leaped through the window, knocked me safely aside and brought the suspect to the ground, as the crowbar flew out of his hand."

Whenever you work with Benji, you don't get hurt," his wife Carol is likely to remind Tom Lydon, who was once injured on a special detail when Benji wasn't present. "It's true, too, Benji is fantastic," he says. "In fact, the only thing he can't do as well as a human is get on the radio and call for back-up help."



It's 6 A.M.

Do You Know Where Your Dog Is?

By Richard W. Bryant



Although it happens throughout the entire year, wildlife are particularly prone to being attacked by dogs in late winter and early spring. Reports from law enforcement agents, natural resource officers, and agriculture officials in New England all point to an ever-growing problem of free-roaming housedogs chasing wildlife, especially deer.

The Whitetail Deer in the Northeast are easy prey for dogs during conditions of deep snow with a crust on top, usually occurring after a mild thaw. Movement is very difficult for the deer because their heavy weight breaks through the deep snow. On the other hand, lighter weight dogs can move along easily on top of the snow. Attacks on deer usually occur during the early morning hours. Many dogs gain access to deer areas by snowmobile or ski trails. The deer, usually underweight and malnourished as a result of the long winter, are easy prey for the dogs. Witnesses have reported dogs chasing the animals on beaches, through fields, wooded areas, and especially over frozen ponds.

Typically, two or more dogs form a pack and chase the wildlife for sport or for the sake of the chase rather than for food, since most officers agree that the dogs usually are housepets and eventually go home to their families. Some deer are forced into water and drown, others suffer shock and severe stress. Once the deer fall from exhaustion or are trapped at a fence or some area like a ledge where they can't go on, the dogs finally attack. Conservation officers generally agree that the dogs are not wolves or coyotes because of the method of kill, which is usually long and drawn out, and caused by an attack at the legs and hind end. A wolf or coyote looks for a quick kill, usually at the neck.

Best official estimates range from 1,000 to 2,000 deer killed each year by dogs in New England. In Massachusetts, state wildlife officials report that the Quabbin Reservoir is an area where they consider free-roaming dogs to be a nuisance and a threat to wildlife in that area. The lower end of Cape Cod is another area where there is a great deal of deer predation by dogs. Here is a typical example: In spite of a recent temporary state-wide order by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife to restrain dogs from running at large in almost every county of the Commonwealth, several dogs

chased a doe along Truro beach where the animal was finally brought down, suffering from exhaustion and from many wounds caused by dogs biting at her legs. A Department of Natural Resource officer shot one of the dogs, while the others got away. Massachusetts law allows officers to shoot any dog chasing, hunting, molesting, attacking or killing deer.

Livestock are also threatened throughout the Northeast by loose dogs. According to results of a recent League survey of wildlife and agricultural officials in New England, sheep, poultry, domesticated rabbits, and calves are the most susceptible to attacks by dogs. Officials agreed that at least 80 per cent of the livestock killings in New England are attributed to free-roaming dogs.

The following two incidents in Massachusetts are typical of reported attacks by dogs on livestock. In one case, a housedog killed some poultry: two ducks and four hens. The animal was known to have tried before and the incident was reported to the owner and to the local animal control officer. The owners knowingly allowed the dog to run loose and the owner of the poultry put up a fence in an attempt to keep the dog out. The neighbors reported that the dog is usually out on its own and is known throughout the neighborhood. A lot of area youngsters were afraid of the dog, which had bitten two children in the past. Immediately following the incident, the dog was picked up by the animal control officer and it was impounded. The animal did not have a license, but the owner was located and a citation was issued. The farmer lost some of his prize poultry through a horrifying experience and tomorrow, the dog may be running free again.

In the other case, a pack of dogs killed four sheep last January. The owner of the livestock shot one male German Shepherd who was wearing a license. The dog's owner told the animal control officer that the animal had gotten out, but was usually confined. The farmer saw the incident happen but would not identify the other dogs because he also wants to shoot them if they appear again.

In Massachusetts, and most other states, owners of livestock are also allowed to shoot dogs who are harassing their animals on their property.

The zoological parks and natural history

museums keeping wildlife also have problems with roaming dogs attacking, injuring, and killing their animals. Sometimes the victims are members of endangered species.

Irresponsible pet owners apparently are to blame. According to our survey, most officials felt that the majority of attacks on wildlife were by male dogs that were housepets. That is, the dogs had a place to sleep at night, were fed and cared for by humans and just let loose during the day with the owners not aware of their whereabouts or activities. Second to housepets, the survey indicated that some animals were at one time housepets and were now lost or abandoned dogs. Many officials believed for some time that these dogs were feral, which means born in the wild and live in a semi-wild atmosphere without any human contact at any time from puppyhood to adult age. Most of the dogs were mongrels. When asked to comment on a particular breed or breed mixture of dogs that commonly are associated with these cases, the majority of officials indicated that the dogs were of a shepherd and husky mixture, although Labrador Retrievers, Irish Setters and Beagles were also mentioned.

Approximately 60% of dogs involved in such incidents can be traced to owners and therefore are considered to be housepets. The reactions owners have to hearing that their dog was connected with an attack on wildlife or livestock are predictable. Some people are amazed and can't believe that their "pooch" would join a pack or act with another dog to kill another animal. Some don't care and become repeat offenders. Many don't believe their dog was involved until the animal has been impounded or shot. A typical excuse when confronted by an officer is that



someone else let the dog out and he usually does not run free. Investigations usually reveal that neighbors have seen the dog in their area running loose.

This problem is only one aspect of the difficulties created by irresponsible dog owners. Many of the same people are repeat offenders with other animal control and leash law violations. Many of their dogs are also involved in biting humans as well. There seems to be a pattern of callous disregard for neighbors, the law, and the recommendations of local animal control officers and other officials.

In small towns and in large cities the irresponsible dog owner creates a number of problems, most of which result in animal suffering. For instance, the city of New Bedford generally has

calls for at least 20 dogs on the loose every day. In Malden some days, the calls go up to 40. In Melrose, 10 to 15, and it's not unusual to have 25 on some days. The cages of many dog pounds are usually filled.

Animal control officers may become very unpopular while performing their task of enforcing the laws; however, it must be done. In Boston, only 20% of the estimated 60,000 dogs in the City are even licensed. Thousands of stray dogs are picked up and euthanized each year.

This situation becomes a problem for animal control officials, some of whom liken their job to a system of wildlife management. Since wildlife are hunted each year, the wildlife managers decide what number is a sufficient population for a given animal species and then the surplus of those animals are allowed to be harvested or hunted each year leaving behind a stable population that suits the habitat where they live, the amount of food, and protection available to them.

Animal control officials end up being the wildlife control managers and the hunters by picking up animals that are running loose, many of which are former housepets now abandoned. A few are feral, but most are just neglected housepets that do go home at night. These animals are impounded and if the owner is located, which may be only 25% of the time, the owner pays a nominal fine, purchases a dog license, and takes his dog home again. Many times the very next day or the same day, the dog is on the street again. Many of the other dogs unclaimed by their owners are killed, just as in the wildlife population.

The irresponsible pet owner is supplying the surplus animals by allowing his own dog to run free to produce litters of mongrel puppies. Usually only 10% of the mongrel puppies and kittens are successfully placed in new homes, while the remaining surplus are euthanized. But these are domesticated pets; not wildlife. The situation is needless. The suffering is inhumane.

It should be fairly easy for animal control officials to get the pet population under control to reduce these problems, resulting in fewer dogs biting people, fewer stray animals fending for themselves, fewer diseases, fewer traffic accidents and less damage to livestock and wildlife.

What is the problem then? Why does it continue and why are many dog lovers increasingly joining the ranks of dog haters? Because of irresponsible people. People who buy dogs and other pets on impulse without thinking they are buying a living creature which is dependent on them for attention, food, water, medical care, and for protection. People who abandon their animals when they realize the amount of time and work involved, or when the dog develops behavior problems, which many puppies do. People who allow their dog to run free simply because they cannot control the dog well enough to allow it in the house or to keep it in a yard without it barking all the time, digging its way out, or in some way acting as a general nuisance.

This means that pet owner education is the vital first step in finding a solution. We must reach people before they acquire a pet, to inform them of what their responsibilities will be, and provide the information they should have concerning the welfare of their pet. This can be accomplished



Annual Report 1977

In its 78th year of service, the Animal Rescue League of Boston is proud to report to its members that humane assistance was provided for close to 96,000 animals from League headquarters and branches. Hundreds of thousands of other animals were helped indirectly through continuing efforts in humane education, legislative activities and livestock conservation programs.

The League is deeply grateful to its members whose loyal support makes it possible to continue these programs, in spite of the pressures of rising costs. Close to 1800 new members joined the League this year, but to overcome inflationary trends without cutting back on the services so badly needed by an ever-growing animal population, much more help is needed - both by added membership support and by bequests from those who wish to leave a legacy of kindness to our animal friends.

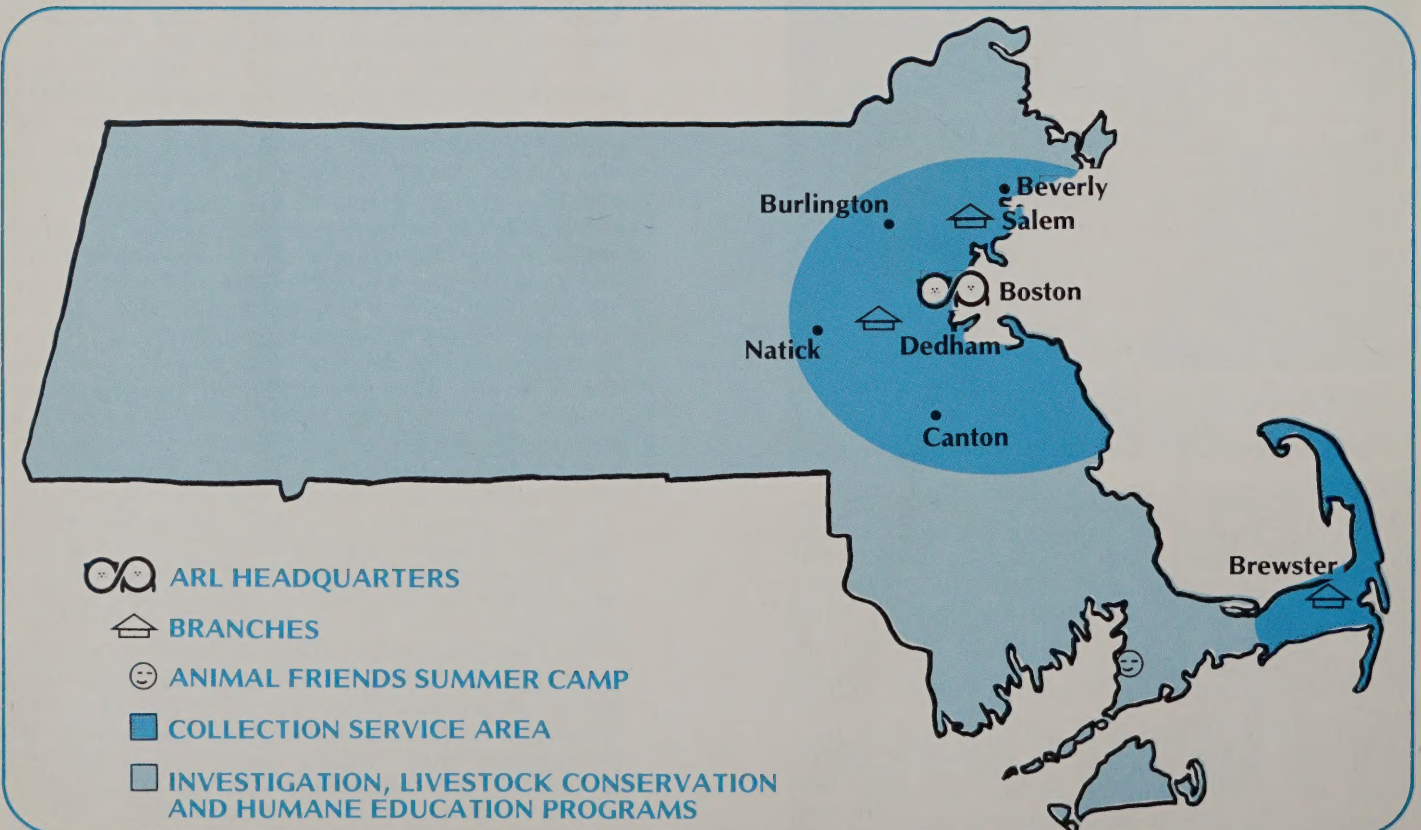
1977 was a year of activity and change at the League as Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick, former president, retired after almost forty years of distinguished service in the humane field. Arthur G. Slade was elected the new president of the League in November, and Roger Van Teyens rejoined the League staff as director of operations, filling the post vacated by Mr. Slade.

Under a new agreement with the City of Boston, effective July 1, 1977, the League's role as city dog officer has changed to focus primarily on shelter and health care for stray animals. The collection of stray dogs is now handled by a CETA funded staff under the Environmental Control Unit of the Boston Police Department.

While this has relieved League inspectors to devote more time to cruelty investigations and animal protection efforts, it has also created an increase in the number of stray animals needing shelter, which is now averaging over 450 a month. The League also provided training in animal control techniques for the initial staff members of the Control unit.

League staff members and livestock conservation staff played an active role in promoting passage during 1977 of several significant humane legislation bills in Massachusetts. These included an amendment to the cruelty law prohibiting use of live animals as bait in, or during training for, races, games or contests; a bill prohibiting live animals as prizes in games or contests; a bill regulating humane transport of horses; and another designating the second Saturday of September as Endangered Species Day in Massachusetts.

Adoptions were up this year with the successful placement of 3,017 dogs and 2,730 cats in new homes, compared to 2,780 dogs and 2,101 cats in



MEMBER-READER QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to adapt our articles to your interests, we would like to take a survey, the results of which will give us a clearer picture of who you are, what you like to read, and how you feel about various issues. By surveying our members we hope to become better informed of changing public attitudes. Please help us by filling out as much of this survey as possible and mailing the postage paid reply card today.

WHAT TYPE ARTICLE DO YOU LIKE TO READ?

(Check the appropriate section)

1. League news and reports on activities
2. Animal fiction stories
3. Legislative action for animal welfare
4. Humorous animal anecdotes and cartoons
5. Livestock in New England
6. Animal book reviews
7. How animals aid people
8. People and animal stories - human interest,
adventure, personalities
9. "How-tos" - taking care of pets for instance
10. Poetry - inspirational - philosophical

WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST?

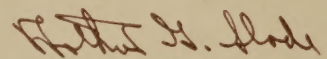
Which of these topics has the greatest interest for you?
There are 10 topics in all, so number them from 1 to 10
according to preference (1 being rated the highest). —————→

11. Problems affecting animals and pets
and possible solutions
12. Careers working with animals
13. Environmental problems that affect the
animal kingdom
14. Current controversial issues such as
hunting, trapping
15. Humane society work in other parts of
the nation or the world
16. Research work for animal health
17. Cases of animal abuse
18. Animal health and care such as questions
from our readers with responses
from our veterinary staff
19. Photographs as an animal study with captions
20. Children's stories
21. HOW DO YOU RANK OUR PRESENT ISSUE OF
"OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS"?
22. Would you be willing to write your legislators in
support of a bill?
23. Are you interested in assisting the League in a
special fundraising activity in your Community?

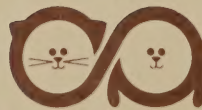
Occupation: _____

THANK YOU

Your thoughts and ideas are extremely important to us. They will do much to foster our work and services to animals.



Arthur G. Slade
President



Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
..... 11.	☐	☐	☐
..... 12.	☐	☐	☐
..... 13.	☐	☐	☐
..... 14.	☐	☐	☐
..... 15.	☐	☐	☐
..... 16.	☐	☐	☐
..... 17.	☐	☐	☐

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..... 19.	☐	☐	☐
..... 20.	☐	☐	☐

..... 21.	☐	☐	☐
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..... 22. Yes ☐ No ☐

..... 23. Yes ☐ No ☐

COMMENTS (PLEASE PRINT)

ANSWER REPLY CARD

**YOUR READING
INTEREST LEVEL**

	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW
1.	☐	☐	☐
2.	☐	☐	☐
3.	☐	☐	☐
4.	☐	☐	☐
5.	☐	☐	☐
6.	☐	☐	☐
7.	☐	☐	☐
8.	☐	☐	☐
9.	☐	☐	☐
10.	☐	☐	☐

BIRDS

CATS

DOGS

MARINE LIFE

HORSES

LIVESTOCK

SMALL CAGE TYPE

PETS

UNUSUAL PETS

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COMBINED RECORD OF SERVICES TO ANIMALS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1977

SHELTER SERVICES FOR STRAY HOMELESS AND ABANDONED ANIMALS

	Dogs	Cats	Horses	Cattle	Sheep Swine	Birds	Misc.	TOTAL
Collected by Agents	7,175	9,083	—	—	—	184	254	16,696
Brought to Boston Shelter	6,236	6,779	—	—	—	20	85	13,120
Sheldon Branch (Salem)	1,973	7,154	—	—	—	131	131	9,389
Pine Ridge (Dedham)	73	248	—	—	—	—	3	324
Cape Cod Branch (Brewster)	1,779	1,178	—	—	—	26	91	3,074
	17,236	24,442	—	—	—	361	564	42,603

Of the above animals, 3,017 dogs, 2,730 cats and 13 miscellaneous animals were placed in homes, and 1,882 dogs and 157 cats were restored to owners. The balance were humanely destroyed.

AID TO PETS, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE

Treated in Clinic	8,767	4,350	—	—	—	—	49	13,166
Inspections and Investigations	3,896	881	9,046	10,664	2,035	4,777	7,191	38,490
Rabies Control Cases	1,196	31	—	—	—	—	5	1,232
Total Animals Served	31,095	29,704	9,046	10,664	2,035	5,138	7,809	95,491

Number of alleged cruelty investigations - 1,600

1976. Far more impressive than numbers though are the sentiments of people like the following who write to share their joy in their new pet:

"My husband and I are most pleased with our new puppy - we enjoy watching him play and run through the house. The staff at the Sheldon Branch in Salem were most helpful and pleasant. The building was very clean and nice. I would like to thank you all for helping me and letting me have "Deacon." I will try to give him a very happy and loving life. Thank you again."

Branch activities continue strong at the Cape Cod Branch in Brewster, the Pine Ridge Cemetery for Small Animals in Dedham, and the Sheldon Branch in Salem, where the puppy described above was one of 1489 animals placed in homes, a noteworthy adoption rate of 16.3%.

There was also an increase in the number of lost pets returned to their owners, especially at the Cape Cod Branch where 701 dogs out of a total 885 stray dogs were restored to their owners, making a lost dog return rate of almost 80%.

Members of the inspection and investigation staff handled 1600 cases involving 38,490 animals, during investigation of cruelty complaints and routine inspection of pet shops, fairs, kennels,

livestock auctions and other places where animals are kept. As part of the rabies control program, a highly successful citywide rabies inoculation clinic was held in the Spring at League headquarters. A total of 778 animals were immunized.

The veterinary staff of the animal clinic this past year provided health care for 13,166 animals. Continuing its efforts to combat the pet population problem, the spay and neuter program reported the following accomplishments: 1,460 animals spayed and 739 male pets neutered for a total of 2,199 animals sterilized.

Viewing prevention as the best cure for animal abuse, the League continued to place strong emphasis on humane education, teaching humane attitudes through lectures, tours, literature, the Animal Friends Summer School program, presentations by the ARL marionettes in schools throughout the state, the Animal Friends Club for junior animal lovers, dog obedience training and a variety of other activities to foster humane attitudes and behavior. As part of its rabies control efforts, the League also this year made available to the Boston School Department a film titled, "Animals Can Bite," to be shown to children in elementary and middle schools.

Harwich Woman Risks Life For Pet

Mrs. Gertrude Cutler of West Harwich was walking her three dogs, two Scottish Terriers and a mixed poodle-cocker named Omar, along the beach on February 10 when Omar fell off the pier into the Herring River. The tide was high and the river filled with ice floes, but without hesitating Mrs. Cutler, who in her own words is "no spring chicken" took off her coat and plunged into the icy waters. The dog's front paws slipped off an ice floe and he went under, but Mrs. Cutler dove in after him, pulled him out from under the ice and safely to shore.

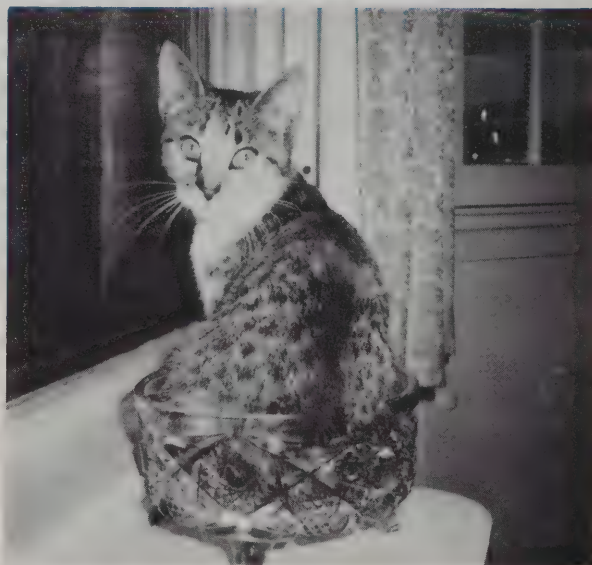
She then put her coat on and walked the three dogs back to her home, 500 yards away. Don Westover, manager of the League's Cape Cod Branch, says: "The wind and cold at the area when I was there were unbearable with dry clothes, let alone soaking wet." When he asked Mrs. Cutler why she did it, she said: "He was my dog and I am responsible for him. What else could I do but go after him?"



Pets In The Picture



Kelli, a female mixed breed adopted from the League in 1963 by the Pappastergion family of Brookline, celebrated her 15th birthday this February. "We got a good little dog when we got Kelli," says Mrs. John Pappastergion, who explains that the dog was a gift for their daughter Diana who was fourteen at the time. Despite her years and a touch of arthritis, "Kelli has all her teeth and is still peppy, alert and a joy to the family."



THIS CAT'S GOT CLASS - Meet Mixie, who was adopted from the League by Edward C. Mann of Lexington who writes: "Mixie is a super cat, friendly with all people, does the darndest things, but she has class. Her favorite sitting spot is in the dining room, looking out the window while sitting in a 50-year old cut glass bowl." Mr. Mann sent along this photo of Mixie doing her favorite thing to share with readers of Our Fourfooted Friends.

Editor's Note: If you have a favorite photo of your pet that you'd like to share, just mail it, together with full caption information, to: Our Fourfooted Friends, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, Mass. 02117.

League Weathers The Blizzard of '78

People will be telling stories about the blizzard of '78 for years to come...good stories for the most part, about people at their best. Here at the League, it was no exception:

Problems began on Monday, February 6th about 5:00 P.M. when the first of four power failures of varying duration occurred. Flashlights were quickly assembled and a large emergency light from the clinic was brought into the lost and found department.

Charlie Robertson, the League's night desk agent, started work at 5:00 P.M. on Monday and awoke early Tuesday to see a four foot snow drift in front of the door. The first problem was how to care for the 95 dogs and 46 cats in the shelter at the time. Ray Florest, an agent for the League, came to the rescue for both the animals and Charlie. Ray, who lives on Marlborough Street, walked to the League with sandwiches and coffee and began to feed and clean all the animals.

The telephone, Charlie said, began to ring constantly as people began to report their dogs had been lost in the storm and others indicated they had found strays on their door steps. Finders were asked to care for the lost animals until the League could get the ambulances back on the street. The League's lost and found cards were filled out for each animal, and in the next three days many animals were returned to their owners through this telephone match-up service.

George McWhinnie, night kennel attendant,



Charlie Robertson offers shelter in the storm to another homeless pup.

who worked Monday night came in Tuesday night to continue the care and feeding of the animals. It should be noted that George worked every night, Monday through Saturday, from 5:00 P.M. to midnight.

Wednesday, Jim Bryant, clinic veterinary assistant, walked from Malden, where he lives, to Sullivan Square with his dog "Pretty Girl" and took the MBTA into Boston and then walked to the shelter to open many of the locked doors so there would be additional food and supplies for the shelter.

Tina Wood, a kennel worker, came from Cambridge and Frank Curtis, also a kennel worker, from Jamaica Plain on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to care for shelter animals. Don Shea, agent, came in and began working the snow-blower clearing the walks to make it a little easier to get in and out of the shelter. Katie Durham of Boston, volunteered on Friday, February 10th to clean and feed animals in Pet Placement since her office was closed and she could walk to the League.

It was not until Thursday at noon that Charlie Robertson finally arrived home, after spending 67 hours in the shelter. When he got home there was no heat or electricity because of the power failure.

While many animals were picked up during the storm, there are a few that are noteworthy:

- "Chester" a huge St. Bernard, was found by Boston Gas Company workers at the intersection of V.F.W. Parkway and Spring Street in West Roxbury and taken to their garage on Rivermore Street where he was kept overnight in the supply room and was given bacon and eggs in the cafeteria the next morning. Chester was claimed by his family in Chestnut Hill.

- Don Shea rescued a large, old, over-weight mixed shepherd in Jamaica Plain from the backyard of an older couple who had seen the dog huddled in the snow. The dog was next to the house and though its body heat had melted the snow down to the bare ground, the snow was still 3 feet high all around it. The couple had been feeding it since the start of the storm but the dog had not moved. The dog could hardly walk after being curled up for so long, but recovered after being brought to the ARL Shelter.

- Peter Faux, investigator, received a call from a woman in Dorchester that a dog was in their backyard on a snow pile for three days and had not moved. Peter went to the house and climbed the snowbank, and the dog began to growl weakly. He talked to the dog slowly and managed to get hold of its eight foot chain. As Peter started to come off the snowbank with the dog, his weight caused a loud crunch of metal under him..."I think there is a car under all this snow."

- A dog was removed from a truck that had to be abandoned by its owner since the police would not allow him to drive on the city street to get the dog home. The owner had left some food, but only had a small amount with him. The dog was brought to the shelter and quickly ate two cans of dog food. The owner was grateful for the temporary care given to his dog.

Pets were received from Revere and Hull for temporary care and housing while their owners were given emergency housing by the Red Cross or stayed with relatives. The League, working with the Red Cross, also housed pets from fires in Boston.

Tire Marks and Tin Cans

By Morgan G. Reed, D.V.M.



Sir John Falstaff was a tramp. Or, if you prefer, a free spirit.

He was well known throughout town, as he traveled his regular route. One daily stop was the school grounds, where he loved to join recess, providing the games did not require that he move rapidly. The teachers didn't really approve of his presence, but his solemn, dignified demeanor and genuine friendliness prevented any very strong protests. He also spent part of his days panhandling the local eating establishments and taverns, where the proprietors were easy pickings for a tasty morsel or two. He would return home at night, footsore and tired, but blandly innocent of any sense of wrongdoing. I don't believe he ever met anyone he did not consider to be his friend. This was not surprising, since Sir John Falstaff was an English Bassett Hound.

Now, however, Falstaff was in trouble. While crossing the street on his way home from his favorite tavern, he had become the victim of a hit-and-run driver. Upon reaching home in search of help, he found the house locked and no one there to let him in. Since he had no means of transportation, it was obvious he would have to walk to the hospital, and Sir John did just that.

Falstaff appeared at the back door of our hospital, waiting - not too patiently and certainly not quietly - to be let in. We found that he was suffering from a moderate concussion, a bloody nose, and an injured ear. Appropriate therapy was instituted, and since the injuries were not severe, he was placed in a cage to rest. The concussion lessened rapidly, and the nose stopped bleeding. But the ear was Falstaff's special decoration for valor! As soon as the swelling had time to rise, there - clear as a relief map - was the tread pattern of the tire that had passed over it.

We called his owners to tell them that their dog's wanderlust had gotten him into trouble. When they went home that evening, the evidence of Falstaff's travail was still there - a trail of blood leading from street to house, to the front door, to the back door, and away in our direction.

This wasn't Falstaff's only self-admittance; we had a repeat performance about a year later. One hot summer day a client of ours suddenly found herself firmly nudged aside as she entered the office with her Chihuahua. In marched Falstaff, all alone. He had found a potted meat tin during his trip around town. In trying to extract the last tasty morsel, he had gotten his tongue caught where the lid was still attached. The cure was simple enough, bend the lid and remove the can. Then the dog calmly walked into an unused examination room and took a cool nap while we notified his owners. I'm not sure he didn't do the whole thing on purpose, just to get in out of the heat.

Falstaff's freedom finally did him in. While traveling his route, he must have found a puddle of automobile anti-freeze coolant, and decided to sample it. This substance, so tasty to dogs, is also very toxic, causing severe and irreversible kidney damage. Sir John was suffering from uremic poisoning and there was nothing we could do to help him. I was glad, though, that we could see the old fellow over life's last threshold painlessly.

Falstaff lived a full and happy life in the days where there was more room for free spirits, man and dog alike. I sometimes wonder how he would fare under the strictly enforced leash laws of today's crowded world. I remember his friendly, courteous and amiable disposition, and I know he'd be happy anywhere he could make friends. I'm sure, though, that he would occasionally dream of that now-forbidden world of the tramp.

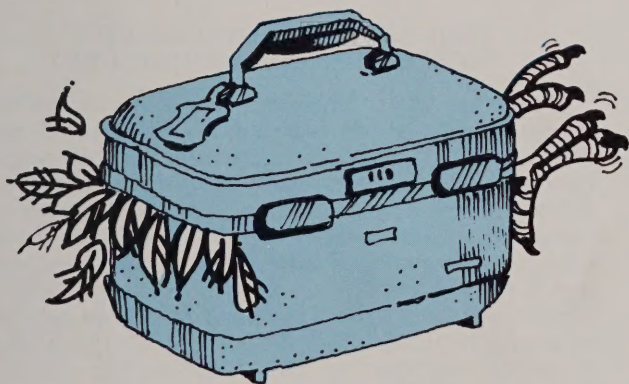
Reprinted with permission from the Friskies Research Digest, Summer 1977.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT THREATENED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the world's largest land animal, the African elephant, as a threatened species. Due to illegal killing and a loss of habitat caused by human expansion, the elephant population has declined to an estimated 1,300,000. Between 100,000 and 400,000 African elephants are being lost each year to poachers alone, according to Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton, chairman of the elephant specialist group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Because of its ivory, the elephant is one of the world's most commercially valuable species. Within the past few years, a tenfold rise in the price of ivory has brought a corresponding increase in illegal killing.

HOTLINE IS FOR THE BIRDS



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has set up a telephone hotline as part of an intensive campaign against the smuggling of birds into the U.S. Anyone with information concerning the possible smuggling of birds can report it anonymously, calling from anywhere in the U.S. or overseas during regular working hours. The telephone number is 301-436-8061.

NELCI ELECTS OFFICERS

At the New England Livestock Conservation, Inc.'s 1977 annual meeting, the following officers were elected: president - Donald M. Kinsman, University of Connecticut; vice president - Gerald L. Smith, University of New Hampshire; treasurer - Arthur G. Slade, Animal Rescue League of Boston; secretary - David S. Claflin, Mass. S.P.C.A. NELCI field directors are Alan D. Goldman of the Animal Rescue League of Boston and Robert A. Johnson of the Mass. S.P.C.A.

ANIMAL FRIENDS SUMMER SCHOOL SETS SCHEDULE FOR 1978

For youngsters second grade and up, to the age of 15, here are some important dates to keep in mind for summer. Operated by the League at Cataumet, Cape Cod, the Animal Friends Summer School will offer two three-week sessions:

Session I: July 10 to July 29
(Parents' Day: Saturday, July 29)

Session II: July 31 to August 18
(Parents' Day: Saturday, August 12)

Pet Show: Saturday, August 5
(Rain Date: August 6)

The unique summer day camp, accredited by the American Camping Association, offers a wide range of experiences including pet care, wildlife studies, farm animals, crafts, ecology, marine studies and other nature and animal oriented programs.

For information on registering write the League's humane education department.

SEAL HUNT STATEMENT

The International Society for the Protection of Animals has issued a statement on the subject of sealing which reads in part:

"ISPA maintains that there is cruelty in the seal hunt, and this Society has always given, and continues to give, top priority to the elimination of cruelty in sealing, wherever it occurs."

In response to some misleading promotion by the Newfoundland government on the subject of sealing, the statement emphasizes that ISPA does not consider that the standard of sealing in Newfoundland is significantly different to that in other parts of Canada.

KIDNEY DISEASE NOT LIMITED TO OLDER DOGS

The belief that kidney failure, a leading cause of canine death, is limited to older dogs "is a myth," a University of Georgia veterinary professor told dog owners at a recent Animal Health Congress sponsored by the Morris Animal Foundation.

"The kidney doesn't fail from old age, but from disease," Dr. Michael Lorenz said. "The disease may have started when the dog was two years old, but it didn't produce signs of kidney failure until the dog was eight or nine." Symptoms of kidney failure are unquenchable thirst and frequent urination, possibly accompanied by appetite and weight loss, anemia, dehydration, ulcers of the mouth, diarrhea and vomiting. Owners of dogs with these symptoms should have their pets examined by a veterinarian at the earliest opportunity.

FREE DOG TRAINING AIDS

Dog owners interested in teaching their pets basic obedience may find some helpful advice in a free three-part dog training kit available from Gaines.

Included in the package are a 16-page booklet titled "What Every Good Dog Should Know," a one-page listing of dog training books available at either libraries or bookstores, and a list of obedience clubs in the dog owner's state.

The free dog obedience information can be obtained by writing to: Gaines Dog Obedience, P.O. Box 1007, Kankakee, Ill. 60901.

A DOG'S LIFE!



Why the long face? Possibly worrying about the many diseases that can shorten a dog's life! A recent survey of dog owners by The Morris Animal Foundation revealed that cancer is the leading killer of dogs, but bloat is the number one concern of dog owners. The Foundation will use the survey to determine priorities for scientific studies of canine health problems.

Do You Know Where Your Dog Is?

Continued from page 7

through municipal education programs conducted by the animal control officers, the police departments, humane societies, or in the public schools by the teachers.

Stricter animal control laws are also needed in municipalities for the protection of all the animals and the citizens of the area. But good laws are not enough, they need to be enforced and funded properly. Many animal control officers have had no technical training or professional education of any kind related to their job. Many animal control officers have to operate with a meager budget which doesn't allow proper enforcement. Some towns only have a part-time person enforcing the laws. They drive inappropriate vehicles and are ill-equipped for their job of catching, restraining

PUSS BOOTS CAT BURGLAR OUT OF BUSINESS



Shirley Richardson of Beverly has a cat that thinks he's a watch dog. According to a Boston Globe report, the cat was sitting comfortably on a shelf by a back window, when suddenly his ears went up, his nose poked through a crack in the window, and he meowed a loud warning. His owner looked out and saw three youths outside her neighbor's back window and promptly phoned the police. Two escaped, but the third youth was found in the neighbor's bedroom and arrested as a burglary suspect.

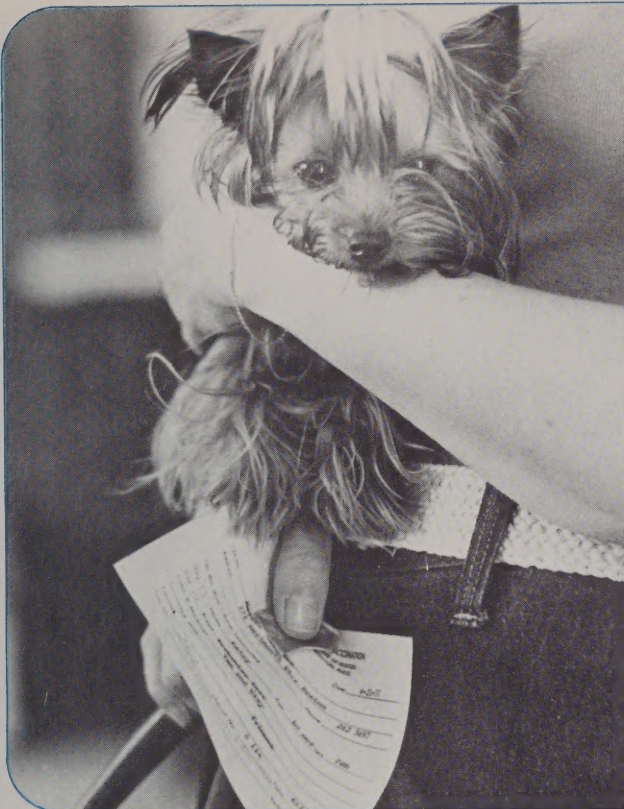
TRAILSIDE MUSEUM TEACHES WILDLIFE RESCUE TECHNIQUES

The Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton, where hundreds of orphaned and injured wild creatures are received each year, is offering a course in wildlife rescue and care. Participants will learn the principles, value and techniques of caring for these animals, and preparing them for eventual release back into the wild. The minimum age for enrollment is 14 and the sessions will be conducted by Bob Stanhope, director of the Museum, which is operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society for the Metropolitan District Commission. For complete information on the wildlife rescue course, call (617) 333-0690.

and impounding the loose dogs. Higher fines for first offenders of unrestrained dogs should be imperative. Most towns that adopt animal control laws set up small graduated fines of perhaps \$5 for the first offense, \$10 for the next, etc. There is no real incentive here to restrain the dog.

The dog owners rather than the dogs are the problem that need to be addressed. The day may come when an expensive permit will have to be purchased in each community in order to own or keep an animal. And just as a driver's license may be revoked for improper automobile use, so may the dog owner's permit for reasons of neglect or cruelty.

It's time to put teeth in our commitment to care for all animal life.



TIME TO TEND TO LICENSES AND RABIES IMMUNIZATION

Don't be an April fool! All dogs three months and over are required by Massachusetts to have a valid dog license. 1977 licenses expire April 1, 1978, and owners of dogs without up-to-date licenses are subject to fines.

State law also requires that all dogs six months and over must be immunized against rabies every two years. If your dog does not have a yellow (1977) or a green (1978) rabies tag, it's time to have your pet re-vaccinated. The Animal Rescue League of Boston will hold a low-cost rabies immunization clinic at its Boston headquarters on Chandler Street this Spring.

RABIES CLINIC

Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27
Noon - 4:00 P.M.

Need for bequests

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is "Animal Rescue League of Boston", that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of bequest:

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the sum of _____ dollars (or if property, describe the property). The League's address is: 10 Chandler Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Come to the
Animal Rescue League of Boston's

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday

April 26, 1978 • 2:30 P.M.

at

League Headquarters Auditorium
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Mass.

Annual Meeting & Election of Directors



Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117



MARY'S LITTLE LAMB - When the blizzard prevented her from getting in to the League where she cares for the animals in pet placement, Mary Brasier of Danvers found an orphan of the storm to care for close to home. A ewe on a nearby farm had complications giving birth and wasn't able to nurse this newborn Karakul lamb. The other ewes in the 20-herd owned by Dr. Ernest Rivers, for whom Mary worked, refused to adopt the orphan which was found at 9 p.m. shivering under a hay

trough, hungry and almost frozen. Mary took the lamb home to her apartment where she fed it milk and Karo syrup with an eye dropper and, with the aid of a heating pad, a quilt and her dog Toby who helpfully licked the newborn animal, nursed it through the first crucial night. The next day "Kari" was returned to the farm, but Mary walked there daily during the blizzard week, to feed and care for her temporary charge.